

**Table 70.—Selected characteristics of public school teachers: Spring 1961 to spring 1996**

Item	1961	1966	1971	1976	1981	1986	1991	1996
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
<b>Number of teachers, in thousands .....</b>	<b>1,408</b>	<b>1,710</b>	<b>2,055</b>	<b>2,196</b>	<b>2,185</b>	<b>2,206</b>	<b>2,398</b>	<b>2,164</b>
Sex (percent)								
Men .....	31.3	31.1	34.3	32.9	33.1	31.2	27.9	25.6
Women .....	68.7	68.9	65.7	67.1	66.9	68.8	72.1	74.4
Median age (years)								
All teachers .....	41	36	35	33	37	41	42	44
Men .....	34	33	33	33	38	42	43	46
Women .....	46	40	37	33	36	41	42	44
Race (percent)								
White .....	—	—	88.3	90.8	91.6	89.6	86.8	90.7
Black .....	—	—	8.1	8.0	7.8	6.9	8.0	7.3
Other .....	—	—	3.6	1.2	0.7	3.4	5.2	2.0
Marital status (percent)								
Single .....	22.3	22.0	19.5	20.1	18.5	12.9	11.7	12.4
Married .....	68.0	69.1	71.9	71.3	73.0	75.7	75.7	75.9
Widowed, divorced, or separated .....	9.7	9.0	8.6	8.6	8.5	11.4	12.6	11.8
Highest degree held (percent) <sup>1</sup>								
Less than bachelor's .....	14.6	7.0	2.9	0.9	0.4	0.3	0.6	0.3
Bachelor's .....	61.9	69.6	69.6	61.6	50.1	48.3	46.3	43.6
Master's or specialist degree .....	23.1	23.2	27.1	37.1	49.3	50.7	52.6	54.5
Doctor's .....	0.4	0.1	0.4	0.4	0.3	0.7	0.5	1.7
College credits earned in last 3 years								
Percent who earned credits .....	—	—	60.7	63.2	56.1	53.1	50.3	50.2
Mean number of credits earned <sup>2</sup> .....	—	—	14	—	9	4	4	—
Median years of teaching experience .....	11	8	8	8	12	15	15	15
Teaching for first year (percent) .....	8.0	9.1	9.1	5.5	2.4	3.1	3.0	2.1
Average number of pupils per class								
Elementary teachers, not departmentalized .....	29	28	27	25	25	24	24	24
Elementary teachers, departmentalized .....	—	—	25	23	22	—	—	—
Secondary teachers .....	28	26	27	25	23	25	26	31
Mean number of students taught per day by secondary teachers .....	138	132	134	126	118	94	93	97
Average number of hours in required school day .....	7.4	7.3	7.3	7.3	7.3	7.3	7.2	7.3
Average number of hours per week spent on all teaching duties								
All teachers .....	47	47	47	46	46	49	47	49
Elementary teachers .....	49	47	46	44	44	47	44	47
Secondary teachers .....	46	48	48	48	48	51	50	52
Average number of days of classroom teaching in school year .....	—	181	181	180	180	180	180	180
Average number of nonteaching days in school year .....	—	5	4	5	6	5	5	6
In current dollars								
Average annual salary as classroom teacher .....	<sup>3</sup> \$5,264	\$6,253	\$9,261	\$12,005	\$17,209	\$24,504	\$31,790	\$35,549
Total income, including spouse's (if married) .....	—	—	\$15,021	\$19,957	\$29,831	\$43,413	\$55,491	\$63,171
Willingness to teach again (percent)								
Certainly would .....	49.9	52.6	44.9	37.5	21.8	22.7	28.6	32.1
Probably would .....	26.9	25.4	29.5	26.1	24.6	26.3	30.5	30.5
Chances about even .....	12.5	12.9	13.0	17.5	17.6	19.8	18.5	17.3
Probably would not .....	7.9	7.1	8.9	13.4	24.0	22.0	17.0	15.8
Certainly would not .....	2.8	2.0	3.7	5.6	12.0	9.3	5.4	4.3

—Not available.

<sup>1</sup>Figures for curriculum specialist or professional diploma based on six years of college study are not included.<sup>2</sup>Measured in semester hours.<sup>3</sup>Includes extra pay for extra duties.

NOTE: Data are based upon sample surveys of public school teachers. Data differ from figures appearing in other tables because of varying processing procedures and time period coverages. Detail may not sum to totals due to rounding.

SOURCE: National Education Association, "Status of the American Public School Teacher, 1995–96." (Copyright © 1997 by the National Education Association. All rights reserved.) (This table was prepared October 1997.)